

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1, 6, 12, 18 and 24 in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A refrigerator, comprising:
a door attached to a body and which selectively opens and closes a storage chamber;
a gasket along an inside surface of the door which maintains airtightness of the storage chamber;
a first magnet in the gasket;
a second magnet inside a front of the body to face the first magnet; and
at least one shield member blocking and contacting a plurality of surfaces of at least one of the first and second magnets not facing the other magnet.
2. (ORIGINAL) The refrigerator as set forth in claim 1, wherein the shield member is a metallic plate surrounding surfaces of the one magnet not facing the remaining magnet.
3. (ORIGINAL) The refrigerator as set forth in claim 1, wherein the shield member blocks surfaces of the second magnet.
4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The refrigerator as set forth in claim 1, wherein the shield member blocks a north pole of the one magnet.
5. (ORIGINAL) The refrigerator as set forth in claim 1, wherein the front of the body is a non-magnetic substance.
6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A refrigerator having an improved magnetic seal comprising:
a refrigerator body;
a refrigerator door, the seal being between the refrigerator door and the refrigerator body, and the refrigerator door having a gasket along an inside surface, which moves between an open and a closed position relative to the body;

first and second magnets, within the gasket and a front of the body, respectively, which are attractive when the door is closed; and

at least one shield member blocking side surfaces of at least one of the first and second magnets, the side surfaces being to the side of a surface not facing the other magnet.

7. (ORIGINAL) The refrigerator as set forth in claim 6, wherein the shield member is a metallic plate.

8. (ORIGINAL) The refrigerator as set forth in claim 6, wherein at least two shield members block surfaces of the first and second magnets.

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The refrigerator as set forth in claim 6, wherein a south pole of the first magnet faces a north pole of the second magnet.

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The refrigerator as set forth in claim 6, wherein a north pole of the first magnet faces a south pole of the second magnet.

11. (ORIGINAL) The refrigerator as set forth in claim 6, wherein the front of the body is a non-magnetic substance.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A refrigerator having an improved magnetic seal comprising:

a body;

a door, having a gasket along an inside surface, and which moves between an open and a closed position relative to the body;

first and second magnets, within the gasket and a front of the body, which are attractive when the door is closed; and

at least one shield member in contact with a plurality of surfaces of one of the magnets, wherein the shield member blocks lines of magnetic force extending from at least one magnet which are substantially repulsive to the other magnet.

13. (ORIGINAL) The refrigerator as set forth in claim 12, wherein the shield member is a metallic plate.

14. (ORIGINAL) The refrigerator as set forth in claim 12, wherein at least two shield members block surfaces of the first and second magnets.

15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The refrigerator as set forth in claim 12, wherein a south pole of the first magnet faces a north pole of the second magnet.

16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The refrigerator as set forth in claim 12, wherein a north pole of the first magnet faces a south pole of the second magnet.

17. (ORIGINAL) The refrigerator as set forth in claim 12, wherein the front of the body is a non-magnetic substance.

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A refrigerator having a storage chamber with improved airtightness, comprising:

a refrigerator body, including the storage chamber, coupled to a cooling system;

a door to move between open and closed positions relative to the storage chamber, respectively;

first and second magnets in the body and the door, respectively, providing an airtight seal between the body and the door; and

at least one shield member blocking side surfaces of at least one of the first and second magnets, the side surfaces being to the side of a surface ~~which are~~ not facing the other magnet.

19. (ORIGINAL) The refrigerator as set forth in claim 18, wherein the shield member is a metallic plate.

20. (ORIGINAL) The refrigerator as set forth in claim 18, wherein at least two shield members block the surfaces of the first and second magnets.

21. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The refrigerator as set forth in claim 18, wherein a south pole of the first magnet faces a north pole of the second magnet.

22. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The refrigerator as set forth in claim 18, wherein a north pole of the first magnet faces a south pole of the second magnet.

23. (ORIGINAL) The refrigerator as set forth in claim 18, wherein the front of the body is a non-magnetic substance.

24. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A refrigerator having a storage chamber with

improved airtightness, comprising:

- a refrigerator body, including the storage chamber, coupled to a cooling system;
- a door able to occupy an open and a closed position relative to the storage chamber;
- first and second magnets in the body and the door, respectively, providing an airtight seal between the body and the door; and
- at least one shield member in contact with a plurality of surfaces of one of the magnets, wherein the shield member blocks lines of magnetic force extending from at least one magnet which are repulsive to the other magnet.

25. (ORIGINAL) The refrigerator as set forth in claim 24, wherein the shield member is a metallic plate.

26. (ORIGINAL) The refrigerator as set forth in claim 24, wherein two shield members blocks surfaces of the first and second magnets.

27. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The refrigerator as set forth in claim 24, wherein a south pole of the first magnet faces a north pole of the second magnet.

28. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The refrigerator as set forth in claim 24, wherein a north pole of the first magnet faces a south pole of the second magnet.

29. (ORIGINAL) The refrigerator as set forth in claim 24, wherein the front of the body is a non-magnetic substance.